



Foreign Policy -- Defense -- Documents on the web -- March 2009

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS:

The White House

STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENT OBAMA WELCOMING FRANCE'S RETURN TO NATO'S MILITARY STRUCTURE

The White House, Office of the Press Secretary. March 21, 2009.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Statement-from-President-Obama-welcoming-Frances-return-to-NATOs-military-structure/

VIDEOTAPED REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT IN CELEBRATION OF NOWRUZ

The White House, Office of the Press Secretary. March 20, 2009.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Videotaped-Remarks-by-The-President-in-Celebration-of-Nowruz/

REMARKS OF PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA -- RESPONSIBLY ENDING THE WAR IN IRAQ

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-of-President-Barack-Obama-Responsibly-Ending-the-War-in-Iraq/

Remarks of President Barack Obama -- As prepared for delivery. Responsibly ending the war in Iraq. Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Friday, February 27, 2009.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON AFGHANISTAN

The White House, Office of the Press Secretary. February 17, 2009.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Statement-by-the-President-on-Afghanistan/

The Department of State

REMARKS WITH NORTHERN IRELAND FIRST MINISTER PETER ROBINSON AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER MARTIN MCGUINNESS

Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State. Peter Robinson, Northern Ireland First Minister. Martin McGuinness, Deputy First Minister. March 17, 2009.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/03/120483.htm>

REMARKS WITH IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER MICHEAL MARTIN AFTER THEIR MEETING
Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State. Michael Martin, Irish Foreign Minister. March 16, 2009.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/03/120431.htm>

2009 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF COURAGE AWARDS

Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State. Dato' Ambiga Sreenevasan, Malaysian Bar Council President. March 11, 2009.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/03/120285.htm>

REMARKS AFTER SECRETARY CLINTON'S MEETING WITH CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER YANG JIECHI

Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State. March 11, 2009.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/03/120284.htm>

REMARKS WITH RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SERGEY LAVROV

Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State. Sergey Lavrov, Russian Foreign Minister. March 6, 2009.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/03/120124.htm>

Congressional Research Service Reports for Congress

THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES NUCLEAR PROGRAM AND PROPOSED U.S. NUCLEAR COOPERATION

By Christopher M. Blanchard, Paul K. Kerr. Congressional Research Service. March 10, 2009. 17 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/120974.pdf>

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has embarked on a program to build civilian nuclear power plants and is seeking cooperation and technical assistance from the United States and others. During 2008 and early 2009, the Bush Administration and the UAE government negotiated and signed a memorandum of understanding and a proposed bilateral agreement on peaceful nuclear cooperation. The Obama Administration has not submitted the proposed agreement to Congress for the required review period. Under the AEA, Congress has the opportunity to review such a proposed agreement for 90 days of continuous session, after which the agreement becomes effective unless, during that time, Congress adopts a joint resolution disapproving the agreement and the resolution becomes law.

ISRAELI-ARAB NEGOCIATIONS: BACKGROUND, CONFLICTS, AND U.S. POLICY

By Carol Migdalovitz. Congressional Research Service. March 9, 2009. 47 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/120969.pdf>

After the first Gulf war, in 1991, a new peace process consisting of bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon achieved mixed results. Congress is interested in issues related to Middle East peace because of its oversight role in the conduct of U.S. foreign policy, its support for Israel, and keen constituent interest. It is especially concerned about U.S. financial and other commitments to the parties, and the 111th Congress is engaged in these matters. Congress also has endorsed Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel, although U.S. Administrations have consistently maintained that the fate of the city is the subject of final status negotiations.

AFGHANISTAN: POST-TALIBAN GOVERNANCE , SECURITY, AND U.S. POLICY

By Kenneth Katzman. Congressional Research Service. March 4, 2009. 82 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/120961.pdf>

As U.S. and outside assessments of the effort to stabilize Afghanistan became increasingly negative throughout 2008, the Bush Administration conducted several reviews of U.S. strategy, and began a plan to build up U.S. forces in Afghanistan. The new Administration has authorized adding 17,000 U.S. forces to Afghanistan while conducting its own "strategic review," which will be used to formulate new policies to be discussed at an April 3, 2009 NATO summit. Obama Administration policy in Afghanistan is facing an expanding militant presence in some areas previously considered secure, increased numbers of civilian and military deaths, growing disillusionment with corruption in the government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai, and an inability of Pakistan to prevent Taliban and other militant infiltration into Afghanistan.

IRAQ: POST-SADDAM GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY

By Kenneth Katzman. Congressional Research Service. March 2, 2009. 66 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/120534.pdf>

As it took office, the Obama Administration was presented with a security environment in Iraq that is vastly improved over that which prevailed during 2005-2007. A major issue is that President Obama has indicated that stabilizing Afghanistan should be a higher priority for the United States than Iraq. U.S. officials worry that the many political disputes that remain, and some that are escalating, pose a threat to stability. Mounting U.S. casualties and financial costs stimulated debate within the 110th Congress over whether a stable Iraq could ever be achieved, and at what cost. With an apparent consensus within the Administration to wind down the U.S. combat in Iraq, there is growing U.S. support in Congress for compelling Iraq to fund key functions now funded by the United States.

CUBA: ISSUES FOR THE 111TH CONGRESS

By Mark P. Sullivan. Congressional Research Service. February 25, 2009. 56 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/120576.pdf>

As in past years, the main issue for U.S. policy toward Cuba in the 111th Congress will likely be how best to support political and economic change in Cuba. In light of Fidel Castro's departure as head of government, many observers have called for a re-examination of U.S. policy toward Cuba. In this new context, two broad policy approaches have been advanced: a status-quo that would maintain the U.S. dual-track policy of isolating the Cuban government while providing support to the Cuban people; and an approach aimed at changing attitudes within the Cuban government and Cuban society through increased contact and engagement. President Barack Obama vowed during the electoral campaign to change U.S. policy by allowing unlimited family travel and remittances to Cuba, although he also pledged to maintain the embargo as a source of leverage to bring about change in Cuba.

NORTH KOREAN BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES

By Steven A. Hildreth. Congressional Research Service. February 24, 2009. 9 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/120575.pdf>

This report briefly reviews North Korea's ballistic missile program. In summer 2007, North Korea tested modern, short-range missiles. In February 2009, South Korea reported the DPRK had deployed a new intermediate-range missile.

IRAN: U.S. CONCERNS AND POLICY RESPONSES

By Kenneth Katzman. Congressional Research Service. February 20, 2009. 64 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/120588.pdf>

The Bush Administration characterized Iran as a "profound threat to U.S. national security interests. But amid widespread recognition that most U.S. goals on Iran have not been accomplished, the President Obama has said the United States will look for opportunities to expand direct engagement with Iran. His Administration also appears to be de-emphasizing potential U.S. military action, although without ruling that out completely, and efforts to promote democracy in Iran. The policy decisions come as Iran enters its run-up to June 12, 2009 presidential elections. If pressures and sanctions are beginning to weaken Iran's economy, it is also likely that legislation will be introduced to support the Obama administration's emphasis on enhanced direct diplomacy with Iran.

JAPAN'S NUCLEAR FUTURE: POLICY DEBATE, PROSPECTS, AND U.S. INTERESTS

By Emma Chanlett-Avery, Mary Beth Nikitin. Congressional Research Service. February 19, 2009. 16 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/120977.pdf>

Japan, traditionally one of the most prominent advocates of the international non-proliferation regime, has consistently pledged to forswear nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, evolving circumstances in Northeast Asia, particularly North Korea's nuclear test in October 2006 and China's ongoing military modernization drive, have raised new questions about Japan's vulnerability to potential adversaries and, therefore, the appeal of developing an independent nuclear deterrent. This paper examines the prospects for Japan pursuing a nuclear weapons capability by assessing the existing technical infrastructure of its extensive

civilian nuclear energy program. It explores the range of challenges that Japan would have to overcome to transform its current program into a military program.

NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS

By Mary Beth Nikitin. Congressional Research Service. February 12, 2009. 23 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/120976.pdf>

This report summarizes what is known from open sources about the North Korean nuclear weapons program and assesses current developments in achieving denuclearization.

INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

By Liana Sun Wyler. Congressional Research Service. February 9, 2009. 37 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/120978.pdf>

This report provides an overview of U.S. international drug control policy. It describes major international counternarcotics initiatives and evaluates the broad array of U.S. drug control policy tools currently in use. The report also considers alternative counterdrug policy approaches to current initiatives and raises several counterdrug policy issues and considerations for policy makers.

A CBO STUDY -- OPTIONS FOR DEPLOYING MISSILE DEFENSES IN EUROPE

Congress of the United States , Congressional Budget Office. February 2009. 82 pages.

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/100xx/doc10013/02-27-MissileDefense.pdf>

As part of ongoing efforts to protect the United States and its allies from attack by ballistic missiles, the U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is working to deploy a missile defense system in Europe. MDA's proposed system is controversial however. In this study, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) assesses and comments several possible options.

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

CHANGING CUBA POLICY -- IN THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL INTEREST

Staff trip report to the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, One hundred eleventh congress, First session. February 23, 2009. 27 pages.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_senate_committee_prints&docid=f:47260.pdf)

[bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_senate_committee_prints&docid=f:47260.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_senate_committee_prints&docid=f:47260.pdf)

The Obama Administration's review of policy towards Cuba will occur during a complex period on the island and in the United States, while the onslaught of a global recession provides an unpredictable environment for foreign relations. The following sections provide background and staff's principal observations from travel to Cuba.

U.S. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY -- TIME TO GET BACK IN THE GAME

A report to members of the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, One hundred eleventh congress, First session. February 13, 2009. 54 pages.

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_senate_committee_prints&docid=f:47261.pdf

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, minority staff traveled to Egypt, Jordan, Mexico and the Dominican Republic from December 1--12, 2008. The purpose of the trip was to examine U.S. Public Diplomacy facilities as platforms for engagement with foreign audiences, including the role of English language instruction as a vehicle to facilitate greater access to information about the United States and interaction with core American values.

THINK TANKS AND RESEARCH CENTERS:

The opinions expressed in these publications do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government

TALKING WITH INSURGENTS: A GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED

By Daniel Byman. The Washington Quarterly. Center for Strategic and International Studies. Brookings Institution. March 26, 2009. 13 pages.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/articles/2009/04_engaging_insurgents_byman/04_engaging_insurgents_byman.pdf

Talking with insurgents is often a necessary first step toward defeating them or reaching an acceptable compromise. There are indeed costs involved when engaging with insurgents. Some successful attempts, however, indicate that sometimes the advantages may outweigh the costs. Can the lessons drawn from the successes in the past be applied in Afghanistan? If so, what are the consequences for Afghanistan and U.S. counterinsurgency strategy?

TOWARD RECONCILIATION IN AFGHANISTAN

By Michael O'Hanlon. The Washington Quarterly. Center for Strategic and International Studies. Brookings Institution. March 26, 2009. 9 pages.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/articles/2009/04_afghanistan_ohanlon/04_afghanistan_ohanlon.pdf

The situation in Afghanistan has been fairly bad, but future prospects are reasonably good. The year 2009 is likely to be bloody as the additional U.S. forces establish themselves in the country. Will the additional troops, however, bring about a turning point in the war? In other words, will the extra forces enable the United States and its allies to cap the violence and also to focus more on the development of the security sector of Afghanistan and the political reconciliation process?

NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE: A STATUS REPORT

By Greg Bruno. Council on Foreign Relations. March 18, 2009.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/18792/reconsidering_missile_defense.html?breadcrumb=%2F

The United States has pursued missile defense technologies since the end of World War II. Since the election of President Barack Obama, however, the future of anti-missile defense

has grown less certain. Missile defense experts suggest the pace of development will slow, whereas congressional leaders speculate the days of unfettered spending on missile defense would come to an end (CQ) with Obama in the White House.

FRENCH MILITARY STRATEGY AND NATO REINTEGRATION

By Michael Moran. Council on Foreign Relations. March 17, 2009.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/16619/french_military_strategy_and_nato_reintegration.html?breadcrumb=%2Findex

The French government's decision to rejoin the integrated military command structure of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) formalizes a decade-long rethink of French military strategy and foreign policy. In this article the author examines the roots of this policy shift and assesses what sort of reception President Sarkozy's decision gets among the French policymaking community, military and opinion, but also from the rest of the alliance. He also foresees the foreign policy implications.

THE AFGHAN-PAKISTAN CONFLICT: U.S. STRATEGIC OPTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN

By Anthony H. Kordesman. Center for Strategic and International Studies. March 16, 2009. 41 pages.

http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/090317_afghpakconfl.pdf

The Afghan-Pakistan War has not been a "forgotten war," but it has been a war that the U.S. has allowed to slip from apparent victory into serious crisis. Initial military victories against Al Qa'ida and Taliban forces have turned a war of political attrition. Tactical victories in Afghanistan have been offset by a steady increase in the levels of violence, casualties, and Taliban influence and control. At the same time, the war has spread to Pakistan and shifted Al Qa'ida -- and the war's center of gravity -- to another country. At this point in time, the Afghan and Pakistani governments, NATO/ISAF, and the U.S. do not face a stalemate; they are losing the war. However, the situation may well be reversible. The question now is whether the U.S. can change its strategy and react decisively enough to reverse this situation. That's what this report tries to assess.

FEW IN PAKISTAN SUPPORT EXTREMISTS -- BUT FEW FAVOR MILITARY CONFRONTATION

By Richard Wike, Kathleen Holzwart. Pew Global Attitudes Project. March 12, 2009.

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1148/pakistan-little-support-for-terrorists-most-favor-education-for-girls>

In recent months extremist groups have increasingly demonstrated their ability to strike throughout the country. These headline-making assaults have, however, been perpetrated in a country where public support for extremism has declined sharply in recent years. Surveys by the [Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project](http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1148/pakistan-little-support-for-terrorists-most-favor-education-for-girls) have found progressively lower levels of acceptance of suicide bombing as well as waning confidence in Osama bin Laden. There is only modest support among Pakistanis for al Qaeda or the Taliban. And few agree with their widely noted tactic of preventing education for girls. Nonetheless, while the trends are positive, sizeable minorities still embrace extremism.

SECRETARY CLINTON'S EUROPEAN TOUR: A NATO-FIRST AGENDA

By Sally McNamara. The Heritage Foundation. March 3, 2009.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Europe/wm2320.cfm>

As Secretary of State Hillary Clinton embarks on an extensive international tour -- which will include visits to Egypt, the Palestinian territories, Israel, Brussels, Geneva, and Ankara -- she will be confronted with fierce competition for her time and attention. Her agenda in Europe, however, will likely be dominated by three interwoven issues: Afghanistan, Russia, and NATO's upcoming Strasbourg-Kehl summit.

PREPARED STATEMENT BEFORE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA, THE PACIFIC AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

By Bruce Klingner, Senior Research Fellow, Northeast Asia. The Heritage Foundation. March 3, 2009.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/AsiaandthePacific/tst030309a.cfm>

Prepared Statement before Committee on Foreign Affairs
Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment
United States House of Representatives.

The author summarizes some of the key points in his oral remarks, particularly some recommendations for reformulating U.S. policy toward North Korea. The views expressed in this testimony are his own, and should not be construed as representing any official position of the Heritage Foundation.

U.S.-BOLIVIA RELATIONS: LOOKING AHEAD

By Peter DeShazo. Testimony before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere. Center for Strategic and International Studies. March 3, 2009. 9 pages.

http://www.csis.org/media/csis/congress/ts090303_deshazo.pdf

The relationship between the United States and Bolivia has traditionally been close but complex. In the future Bolivia will continue to be a country in flux. The implementation of the new constitution will present many challenges to a political system in which confrontation often trumps consensus and deep ethnic and regional divisions exist. The Obama administration should approach Bolivia with patience and realistic expectations, seeking constructive engagement with the people of that country and, to the extent possible, with its government.

MOUNTING U.S. DEBT BURDEN THREATENS POORER NATIONS -- BUT DRYING UP FOREIGN CREDIT TO THE US COULD BE BAD FOR ALL

By David Dapice. YaleGlobal. March 2, 2009.

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=12040>

As economist David Dapice suggests, the U.S. faces two challenges: knowing when to switch from stimulus funding to controlling deficits and inflation, as well as controlling expenses of hefty entitlement programs such as Medicare and Social Security.

TOWARD A NEW DETERRENT

By the New Deterrent Working Group, Air and Space Power Journal, the professional journal of the United States Air Force. March 1, 2009.

<http://www.airpower.maxwell.af.mil/airchronicles/api/api09/spr09/monroe.html>

Analysis and recommendations about the U.S. nuclear deterrent policy, for the Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States.

IS A NUCLEAR DEAL WITH NORTH KOREA FEASIBLE? KIM JONG IL RATTLES THE SABER TO GET THE MOST OUT OF A NEW US ADMINISTRATION

By Peter M. Beck. YaleGlobal. February 27, 2009.

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=12032>

North Korea is getting ready to launch a satellite again, using a long-range rocket that could reach Alaska. Analysts wonder if this is an attention getter for the new U.S. administration or an attempt by a fading leader to prepare the population for succession while warning foreign enemies. The leader of the struggling nation, Kim Jong Il, could be testing out an old trick on a new administration, leveraging their nuclear arsenal and missiles to secure recognition and aid, suggests American University professor Peter Beck.

TWO LOST DECADES? WHY JAPAN'S ECONOMY IS STILL STUMBLING AND HOW THE U.S. CAN STAY UPRIGHT

By Derek Scissors and J.D. Foster. The Heritage Foundation. February 23, 2009.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/AsiaandthePacific/wm2307.cfm>

Japan's lost decades stem partly from an inability to reconfigure their economy away from export reliance. The U.S. risks its own prolonged period of weakness if it fails to correct the policies that have contributed to excessive trade deficits and reliance on foreign saving. And in the case of American stagnation, the consequences would be far worse.

IN SEARCH OF LOST TIME: TURKEY-U.S. RELATIONS AFTER BUSH

By Sinan Ulgen. Center on the United States and Europe. Brookings Institution. February 19, 2009. 9 pages.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/0219_turkey_ulgen/0219_turkey_ulgen.pdf

The past eight years witnessed a sharp evolution of the Turkey-U.S. relationship. The polarizing foreign policy approach that alienated so many of Washington's partners around the globe was also instrumental in shaping Washington's relations with Ankara. The predominance of Iraq in U.S. foreign policy and the proclivity of the first Bush administration to judge its allies on the basis of their contribution to the campaign in Iraq, coupled with the two countries' significantly divergent visions for the future of Iraq, prevented any concrete improvement in bilateral ties in the near term. The election of Barack Obama as the new U.S. President provides an opportunity for Ankara and Washington to put behind their

differences and past grievances decisively and to concentrate on advancing a more ambitious transatlantic agenda.

OBAMA FACES FAMILIAR DIVISIONS OVER ANTI-TERROR POLICIES

By the Pew Research center for the people and the press. February 18, 2009.

<http://people-press.org/report/493/obama-anti-terror-policies>

President Obama receives positive ratings for his handling of terrorism and most Americans say his administration's policies will reduce the likelihood of another major attack on the United States. But as in recent years, the public remains deeply divided over how best to defend the nation against the threat of terrorism.

IRAQ'S ELECTIONS: A WIN FOR PRIME MINISTER MALIKI AND THE UNITED STATES

By James Phillips. The Heritage Foundation. February 9, 2009.

http://www.heritage.org/Research/Iraq/upload/wm_2281.pdf

According to preliminary results, the big electoral winner was Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's State of Law coalition. While 10 percent of the votes must still be counted, it is apparent that the relatively peaceful atmosphere on Election Day was a triumph for U.S. policy and a vindication of the Bush Administration's surge strategy. But it remains to be seen whether all the contending factions will peacefully accept the provincial election results and, more importantly, the results of national elections slated for December. The Obama Administration must be careful to maintain adequate U.S. troops in Iraq to safeguard the prospects for continued political progress.

REASSURING ALLIES: SECRETARY CLINTON'S MOST IMPORTANT MISSION

By Ralph A. Cossa and Brad Glosserman. Pacific Forum CSIS. Center for Strategic and International Studies. February 6, 2009. 2 pages.

<http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/pac0910.pdf>

The authors welcome the news that Hillary Clinton's first overseas trip as Secretary of State will be to Japan, Korea, and China (appropriately in that order). While her visit to Beijing will likely garner the lion's share of attention, her visits to Tokyo and Seoul are equally if not more important. As discovered during a recent visit, anxieties about the Obama administration's Asia policy are running high among government officials and foreign policy elites in both capitals. A certain amount of anxiety is present every time a new administration takes power -- Obama ran on a platform of "change" but it is not clear what changes, if any, his administration has in store for East Asia. But there is also a great deal of anxiety about current trends, which many in Tokyo and Seoul fear will not be reversed and might even be accelerated.

IRAN AND THE FUTURE OF AFGHANISTAN

By Greg Bruno. Council on Foreign Relations. February 6, 2009.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/13578/iran_and_the_future_of_afghanistan.html

In crafting a new approach to the war in Afghanistan, U.S. military and political leaders say Iran -- once dubbed a member of the "axis of evil" by former President George W. Bush -- could play a key role. Yet bringing Iran into the fold, and judging Tehran's willingness to do so, is complicated by Iran's historic relationship to its eastern neighbor.

SLUMDOG PARADOX

By Sadanand Dhume. YaleGlobal. February 4, 2009.

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=11914>

"Slumdog Millionaire" is a rag-to-riches love story that has captured the world's imagination. Even as international audiences cheer the orphan's goal -- not securing wealth or escaping roots, but rather finding a lost love -- Indian audiences are less than enthusiastic. The film is a metaphor for a globalized India, explains author Sadanand Dhume, underscoring the promises and pitfalls of international collaboration and the painful fact that though India has come a long way, it still has far to go. The international attention that accompanies an appealing film, with universal themes, reveals both the good and the ugly of an India in transition. Denial prolongs the difficulties, while openness inspires change. This report explains why the response to the film has been so ambivalent inside the country.

CHINA'S MILITARY POWER

By Jayshree Bajoria. Council on Foreign Relations. February 4, 2009.

<http://www.cfr.org/publication/18459/>

Since the 1990s, China has dramatically improved its military capabilities on land and sea, in the air, and in space. Looking decades ahead, U.S. military planners clearly see the potential for China to develop as a "peer competitor." The U.S. Defense Department's 2008 report on China's military power says "much uncertainty surrounds China's future course, in particular in the area of its expanding military power and how that power might be used." But experts say China is still decades away from challenging U.S. military's preeminence. The author here assesses the Chinese military threat to the U.S., the China's modernization agenda and the U.S. policy response.

ALLIANCE REBORN: AN ATLANTIC COMPACT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: THE WASHINGTON NATO PROJECT

By Daniel Hamilton (lead author), Charles Barry, Hans Binnendijk, Stephen Flanagan, Julianne Smith, James Townsend (co-authors). Atlantic Council of the United States, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Center for Technology and National Security Policy NDU, Center for Transatlantic Relations, Johns Hopkins University SAIS. February 2009. 69 pages.

http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/090130_nato_draft_final.pdf

There is an open but fleeting moment to forge a more effective Atlantic partnership. It must be seized now. European and North American allies have allowed their relations become discordant, yet the times demand vigor and unity. Courageous decisions need to be taken to breathe new life and relevance into the Atlantic partnership, which must be

recast to tackle a diverse range of serious challenges at home and abroad. Reaching consensus on long term strategy should be of high priority. Leaders should go beyond providing direction to the NATO institution and take a higher plane, charting in an Atlantic Compact the future of their partnership in ways that relate the security, prosperity and freedom of their people and their nations to the world as a whole.

DEVELOPING A PROCESS TO BUILD PARTNER CAPACITY FOR COMBATING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

By Jennifer D. P. Moroney, Joe Hogler, Benjamin Bahney, Kim Cragin, David R. Howell, Charlotte Lynch, S. Rebecca Zimmerman. RAND Corporation. February 2009. 3 pages.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2009/RAND_RB9382.pdf

This report summarizes a project that examines how the United States can better coordinate its approach to enhance partners' border security, detection, and interdiction capacity to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

FILM PIRACY, ORGANIZED CRIME, AND TERRORISM

By Gregory F. Treverton, Carl Matthies, Karla J. Cunningham, Jeremiah Goulka, Greg Ridgeway, Anny Wong. RAND Corporation, Safety and Justice Program and the Global Risk Security Center. February 2009. 182 pages.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG742.pdf

This report presents the findings of research into the involvement of organized crime and terrorist groups in counterfeiting. Piracy is high in payoff and low in risk, often taking place under the radar of law enforcement. The case studies provide compelling evidence of a broad, geographically dispersed, and continuing connection between film piracy and organized crime, as well as evidence that terrorist groups have used the proceeds of film piracy to finance their activities. Counterfeiting is a threat not only to the global information economy, but also to public safety and national security. Cooperation among law enforcement and governments around the world is needed in the battle against intellectual-property theft, and meaningful progress will require increased political will, strong legislation, consistent enforcement, deterrent sentencing, and innovative solutions. The report lays out an agenda of measures.

REVITALIZING THE TRANSATLANTIC SECURITY PARTNERSHIP: AN AGENDA FOR ACTION

By F. Stephen Larrabee and Julian Lindley-French. RAND, A Venusberg Group and Rand Corporation Project. February 2009. 48 pages.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/reprints/2009/RAND_RP1382.pdf

During the course of 2008, the RAND Corporation and the Bertelsmann Foundation's Venusberg Group sponsored a series of U.S.-European discussions examining future security challenges confronting the United States and Europe in the context of the election of a new American president. This report, published by Bertelsmann Stiftung, refers to those discussions and seeks to define the substance and parameters of a new security partnership between the United States and Europe as well as to outline an agenda for action for the new partnership.

RUSSIA'S DRIVE FOR GLOBAL ECONOMIC POWER: A CHALLENGE FOR THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

By Ariel Cohen and Lajos F. Szaszdi. The Heritage Foundation. January 30, 2009. 16 pages.
http://www.heritage.org/Research/RussiaandEurasia/upload/bg_2235.pdf

Until the recent global financial crisis, Russia's economic prosperity under Vladimir Putin had helped restore the country as a major world player and as a challenger to Western influence. Russia's economic comeback is largely the result of its high-priced oil, natural gas, and metals, and its arms exports, construction, and consumer boom. The Kremlin has used energy exports to Europe as a foreign policy tool, most notoriously through threats to disrupt oil and gas exports to countries that oppose Russia's national interests. The U.S. should increase cooperation with allied intelligence services, law enforcement agencies, and independent experts to track Russian money laundering, corruption, and unfair competition practices. The Obama Administration should make gathering actionable intelligence on questionable Russian activities a priority.

THE FRACTURED SHIA OF IRAQ: UNDERSTANDING THE TENSIONS WITHIN IRAQ'S MAJORITY

By Matthew Duss and Peter uul. Center for American Progress. January 28, 2009. 25 pages.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/01/pdf/shia_elections.pdf

On January 31, 2009, Iraqis will vote in the country's first provincial elections in four years. These elections will deliver a preliminary verdict on the vigorous and often violent competition between Iraq's contending political factions, and help shape the contours of Iraq's future politics as the Obama administration begins to redeploy U.S. military forces from the country. Religious Shia political parties are likely to shape Iraqi politics at the national level and at the provincial and local levels in central and southern Iraq. It remains to be seen which, if any, of these factions will dominate. This report examines the ongoing competition among rival Shia factions, which may well determine how and how well the United States exits Iraq. It will also examine the religious and political legacy of persecution of the Shia in Iraq over the past half-century and then trace the development of the dominant religious political parties and other power centers within the Shia community. This will be followed by a detailed examination of complex inter-Shia contests for power after the U.S. invasion and amid the current occupation, and conclude with some policy suggestions on how to handle what promises to be an extremely fluid and probably dangerous Shia political landscape in 2009. The success of U.S. policymaking in Iraq will hinge on understanding these Shia dynamics.

COMBATING MARITIME PIRACY

By Stephanie Hanson. Council on Foreign Relations. January 27, 2009.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/18376/combating_maritime_piracy.html

Maritime piracy has been on the rise for years, according to the International Maritime Bureau's (IMB) Piracy Reporting Center. But until 2008, the crime drew limited international

attention. By early 2009, more than a dozen countries had deployed their navies to the Gulf of Aden to counter piracy, and the United Nations passed four resolutions in 2008 on the issue. There are a range of measures available to combat piracy. Yet analysts agree the complexities of international maritime law make it difficult to prosecute pirates once they are caught. Some observers are cautiously optimistic about naval cooperation in the Gulf of Aden, but many experts say they anticipate further increases in piracy -- not just off East Africa, but worldwide.

STRATEGIC PERSISTENCE: HOW THE UNITED STATES CAN HELP IMPROVE HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA

By William F. Schulz. Center for American Progress. January 2009. 56 pages.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/01/pdf/china_human_rights.pdf

The relationship between the United States and China may well be the most important bilateral relationship in the world. In recognition of that fact, this survey is designed to provide both fundamental principles that should guide U.S. policymakers in their efforts to effect positive change in China's human rights practices and concrete recommendations to advance those efforts. It outlines eight principles that should inform the U.S. approach to improving human rights in China, and then applies these principles in a series of recommendations designed to increase the coherence of U.S. strategy and address openings provided by U.S. efforts to boost several points. These eight principles and the recommendations that follow should enable the new Obama administration and the 111th Congress to make substantial progress on human rights in China and in China's human rights-related foreign policy.

ISLAMIC PEACEMAKING SINCE 9/11

By David Smock and Qamar-ul Huda. United States Institute of Peace. January 2009. 12 pages.

<http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr218.pdf>

Muslims in general and Muslim leaders particularly have often been severely criticized for not more energetically condemning the violent acts of Muslim extremists. The uninformed often assume that extremists represent Islam's mainstream. But Islam comes in many forms and interpretations. Violent extremists are on one edge of the Muslim community, but they are counterbalanced by a growing movement of Muslim peacemakers. The purpose of this report is to explore the extent to which Muslim leaders have spoken out publicly to condemn the violent acts committed by extremists, and to identify growing efforts within Muslim communities to reach out peacefully to other communities and to reinforce the peaceful message of Islam.

U.S. MEXICO RELATIONS: COMMENTS ON THE EVE OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S INAUGURATION

By Sydney Weintraub. Center for Strategic and International Studies, Simon Chair in political economy. January 2009. 2 pages.

<http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/issues200901.pdf>

The number 109 of Issues in International Political Economy reports that the situation in Mexico has deteriorated during the past several months, largely because of contagion from the U.S. financial and credit meltdown. Mexico's economy is projected to decline in 2009, the violence spawned by the drug trade is unacceptable, and the country has become the kidnapping capital of the world. This is happening in a populous country with about 110 million people that shares a 2,000 mile border with the United States, and which will always be next door. Mexico's domestic developments are an integral part of U.S. foreign and domestic policy, just as U.S. domestic actions have immediate reverberations in Mexico.

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<http://france.usembassy.gov/web-alert.html>